

## 1345.4 - SA Stats, Sep 2007

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# Summary

## Overview



### In this issue of SA Stats

**02/10/2007** | This is a quarterly data release and represents an overview of a number of economic, social and environment statistics. The topics covered include demography, state accounts, consumption, investment, production, prices, labour force, incomes, housing finance, environment and tourism.



### Demography

Includes: **Estimated Resident Population**

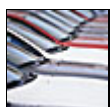
**02/10/2007** | The estimated resident population (ERP) for South Australia was 1,581,400 at 31 March 2007, an increase of 16,100 persons (1.0%) since 31 March 2006.



### State Accounts

Includes: **State Final Demand, Household Final Consumption Expenditure**

**02/10/2007** | South Australia's June 2007 quarter State Final Demand in chain volume (trend) terms was \$17,000m and Australia's Domestic Final Demand was \$255,040m.



### Consumption

Includes: **Retail Turnover, New Motor Vehicle Sales**

**02/10/2007** | The July 2007 trend estimate for South Australia's retail turnover was \$1,385.5m, compared with the Australian total of \$19,292.1m.



### Investment

Includes: **Private New Capital Expenditure, Mineral and Petroleum Exploration Expenditure**

**02/10/2007** | Between the March 2007 and the June 2007 quarters, the South Australian chain volume (trend) estimate of private new capital expenditure increased by 0.9% to \$1,248m.



### Production

Includes: **Building Approvals**

**02/10/2007** | In July 2007, the total number (in trend terms) of dwelling units approved in South Australia was 893. Nationally, the total number (in trend terms) of dwelling units approved was 12,775.



### Prices

Includes: **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**

**02/10/2007** | The all groups consumer price index (CPI) for Adelaide increased by 1.7% in the 12 months to June 2007, compared with a 2.1% rise in the weighted average of eight capital cities.



### Labour Force

Includes: **Job Vacancies, Employed persons, Unemployment, Participation rate**

**02/10/2007** | In original terms, South Australia's total number of job vacancies decreased to about 10,000 in August 2007 from 10,200 in May 2007. The August 2007 vacancies were 11% higher than in August 2006.



### Incomes

Includes: **Average Weekly Earnings**

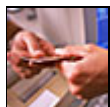
**02/10/2007** | The trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time) earnings for full-time adult persons in South Australia increased by 2.5% in the 12 months to May 2007 reaching \$1,011.10.



## International Merchandise Trade

Includes: **Exports and Imports**

**02/10/2007** | The value of South Australian merchandise exports (in original terms) was \$916m in July 2007 up 39.4% from \$657m in July 2006. The value of merchandise imports decreased to \$511m in July 2007 from \$557m in June 2007.



## Housing Finance

Includes: **Housing Finance Commitments**

**02/10/2007** | The trend estimate of the total value of housing finance commitments (owner occupation) in South Australia has risen by 11.2% to \$1,006m in the 12 months to July 2007.



## Environment

Includes: **Winter Rainfall, Adelaide's Reservoir Levels**

**02/10/2007** | Winter rainfall recorded at the Adelaide (Kent Town) site of the Bureau of Meteorology for June 2007 was 71% of the season average. The agricultural and pastoral districts of South Australia generally received well below average winter rains.

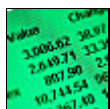


## Tourism

Includes: **Tourist Accommodation**

**02/10/2007** | The South Australian room occupancy rate for hotels, motels and serviced apartments with 15 or more rooms was 63% in the March 2007 quarter.

## In this Issue of SA Stats



### IN THIS ISSUE OF SA STATS

This issue of SA Stats is a quarterly data release and represents an overview of a number of economic, social and environment statistics. The topics covered include demography, state accounts, consumption, investment, production, prices, labour force, incomes, housing finance, environment and tourist accommodation.

SA Stats provides an overview of the South Australian economy. The overview will be updated on a quarterly basis (in March, June, September and December) and in the intervening months the publication will include feature articles that provide a South Australian focus on economic, social and environmental issues.

Explanatory Notes are not included in SA Stats in the form found in other ABS publications. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications.

If you have any comments about this product please contact Arnold Strals on ph: (08) 8237 7365 or alternatively email [sa.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:sa.statistics@abs.gov.au).

	South Australia	Australia	%	Period
Estimated Resident Population	1 581 400	20 948 900	7.5%	Mar 2007 Qtr
State Final Demand (trend)	\$17 000m	\$255 040m	6.7%	Jun 2007 Qtr
Household Final Consumption Expenditure	\$9 907m	\$140 815m	7.0%	Jun 2007 Qtr
Retail Turnover	\$1 385.5m	\$19 292.1m	7.2%	Jul 2007
New Motor Vehicle Sales	5 058	86 834	5.8%	Aug 2007
Private New Capital Expenditure	\$1 248m	\$20 685m	6.0%	Jun 2007 Qtr
Mineral Exploration Expenditure	\$84.1m	\$502.5m	16.7%	Jun 2007 Qtr
Petroleum Exploration Expenditure	\$48.6m	\$732.1m	6.7%	Jun 2007 Qtr
Building Approvals (dwelling units)	893	12 775	7.0%	Jul 2007

Consumer Price Index (all groups)	159.3	*155.7	102.3%	Sep 2007
Job Vacancies (original)	10 000	173 100	5.8%	Aug 2007 Qtr
Employed persons	761 000	10 502 000	7.3%	Aug 2007
Unemployed persons	38 100	467 100	8.2%	Aug 2007
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1 011.1	\$1 088.4	93.0%	Feb 2007
Exports	\$916m	\$14 523m	6.3%	Jul 2007
Imports	\$511m	\$15 275m	3.3%	Jul 2007
Housing Finance Commitments	\$1 006m	\$15 673m	6.4%	Jul 2007
Average Loan Size (owner occupied)	\$193 400	\$239 700	80.7%	Jul 2007
Tourist Accommodation Takings	\$117.0m	\$2 370.3m	4.9%	Mar 2007 Qtr

\*Average of 8 capital cities

## Articles

### Index of Articles published in SA Stats

## Demography



### DEMOGRAPHY

The preliminary estimated resident population (ERP) for South Australia was 1,581,400 at 31 March 2007, an increase of 16,100 persons (1.0%) since 31 March 2006. The annual population growth for the year ended 31 March 2006 was also 1.0%.

All states and territories recorded population growth over the 12 months ended 31 March 2007. Queensland recorded the largest growth rate (2.3%) and Tasmania recorded the lowest growth rate (0.6%).

### ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

For the 12 months ending 31 March 2007, South Australia recorded a natural increase (i.e. the net of births and deaths) of 6,300 persons. Net overseas migration provided a gain of 12,600 persons in the same period while net interstate migration realised a loss of 3,500 persons.

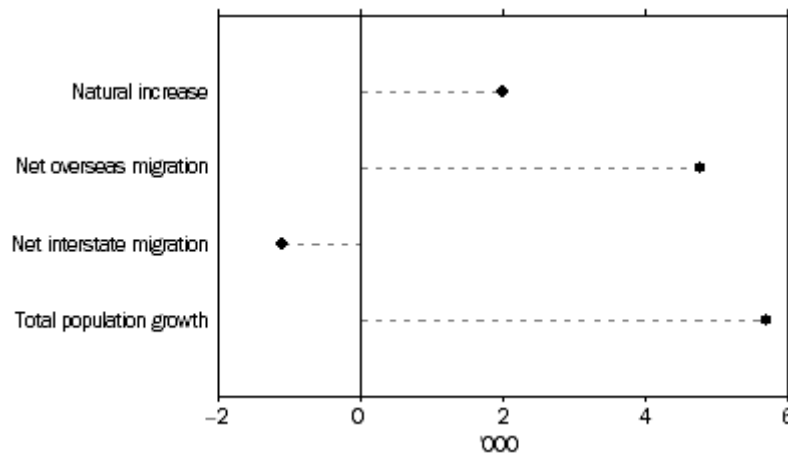
In the March 2007 quarter South Australia recorded a net natural increase of 2,000 persons and a gain in net overseas migration of 4,800 persons, which was the largest quarterly net overseas migration recorded for the state in the last twenty five years. For every quarter since September 1986, with the exception of June 1993 (-217 persons) and June 1994 (-5), there has been a net overseas migration gain in South Australia's ERP. Net interstate migration in the March 2007 quarter resulted in a loss of 1,100 persons from South Australia. Since September 1986, South Australia has only shown a net increase in population from interstate migration in 11 out of the 80 quarters, and 9 of these quarters occurred before March 1992.

Nationally, the preliminary ERP was 20,948,900 at 31 March 2007, an increase of 307,100 persons (1.5%) since 31 March 2006. The population growth rate for the year ended 31 March 2007 (1.5%) was the same as that recorded for the year ended 31 March 2006

(1.5%). For the year ended 31 March 2007, Australia recorded a natural increase in population of 138,000 persons; net overseas migration resulted in a gain of 162,600 people.

In the March 2007 quarter Australia's population recorded a natural increase of 39,600 persons. The net overseas migration for Australia resulted in a gain of 57,000 persons, the largest increase since the March 2001 quarter.

### ANNUAL POPULATION CHANGE, COMPONENTS, March quarter 2007, South Australia



Source: [Australian Demographic Statistics](#) (cat. no. 3101.0)

## State Accounts



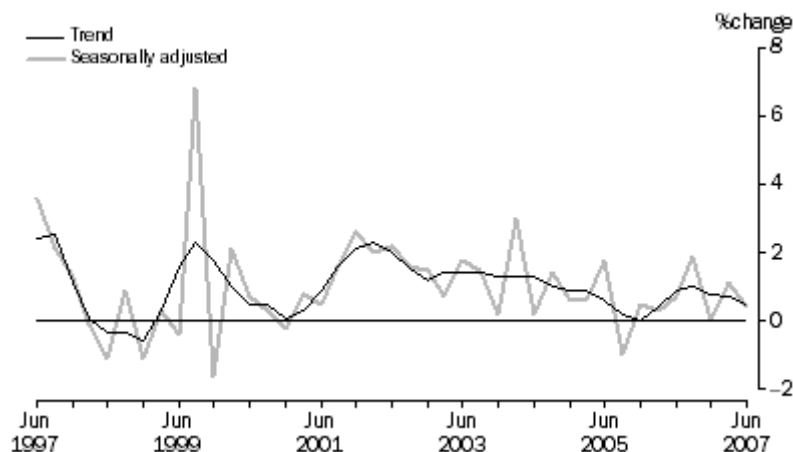
### STATE ACCOUNTS

South Australia's June 2007 quarter State Final Demand in chain volume (trend) terms was \$17,000m and Australia's Domestic Final Demand was \$255,040m.

The 0.5% increase in South Australia's State Final Demand from the previous quarter was less than the increase observed in the national Domestic Final Demand (1.6%). Of the other states and territories the strongest growth for the quarter was reported in Western Australia (up 3.8%). State Final Demand for the June quarter fell in the Northern Territory by 0.7%.

In the June 2007 quarter South Australia's State Final Demand comprised 6.7% of Australian Domestic Final Demand, compared to 7.1% for the June 1997 quarter. The proportional contribution to the Australian Domestic Final Demand of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania also decreased over this time period while that of the other states and territories (Western Australia, Queensland, Australia Capital Territory and the Northern Territory) increased. The most notable decreases occurred in New South Wales, with a fall from a 34.2% share to 31.4% and Victoria, down from 24.4% to 23.8%. Queensland increased its share of Australian Domestic Final Demand from 17.6% to 19.9% and Western Australia's share rose from 10.3% to 11.6%.

### STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures, Percentage change from previous quarter, South Australia



Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, (Cat. no 5206.0)

### HOUSEHOLD FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE (HFCE)

In chain volume (trend) terms, South Australia's June 2007 quarter HFCE was \$9,907m (7.0% of the national total of \$140,815m). This represented a 0.7% increase from the March 2007 quarter for South Australia and a 1.0% increase for Australia.

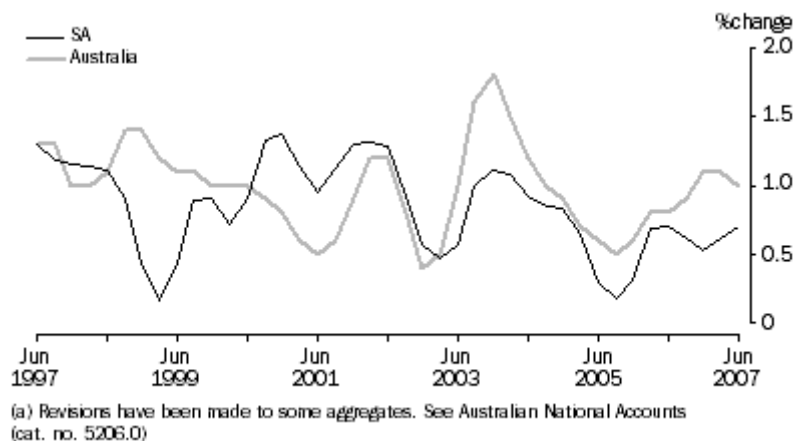
For the June 2007 quarter relative to the March 2007 quarter, Purchase of vehicles recorded the greatest increase in expenditure for South Australia (up 3.5%), followed by Furnishings and household equipment (up 1.9%). For the same period, the greatest increases for Australia were also in Purchase of vehicles (up 3.7%) and Furnishings and household equipment (up 1.4%). The March 2007 expenditure on Hotels, cafes and restaurants in South Australia recorded a decrease of 1.3% while nationally no decrease was observed.

Comparing the June 2007 quarter and the June 2006 quarter, HFCE increased by 2.5% for South Australia and 4.2% for Australia.

The expenditure components which showed the largest increases for South Australia when comparing the June 2007 and June 2006 quarters were: Furnishings and household equipment (up 11.9% to \$583m); and Purchase of vehicles (up 7.0% to \$321m). The expenditure components which showed the largest increase for Australia when comparing the June 2007 and June 2006 quarters were: Purchase of vehicles (up 11.7% to \$5,748m); Furnishings and household equipment (up 7.8% to \$8,399m); and Clothing and footwear (up 5.6% to \$5,575m). Hotels, cafes and restaurants was the expenditure component which showed the largest decrease for South Australia (a 5.1% decrease to \$744m). No Australian expenditure components showed a decrease over this 12 month period, but the smallest increase was seen for Cigarettes and tobacco (up 1.0% to \$2,355m). In South Australia, expenditure on Cigarettes and tobacco increased by 0.6% (to \$180m) in this time.

Over the ten year period June 1997 quarter to June 2007 quarter, Cigarettes and tobacco was the only expenditure component which showed a decrease; for South Australia the decrease was 15.5% (from \$213m to \$180m), and for Australia the decrease was 7.9% (from \$2,558m to \$2,355m).

### HOUSEHOLD FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE(a), Trend, Chain volume measures, Percentage change from previous quarter



Source: [Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product](#), (Cat. no 5206.0)

## Consumption

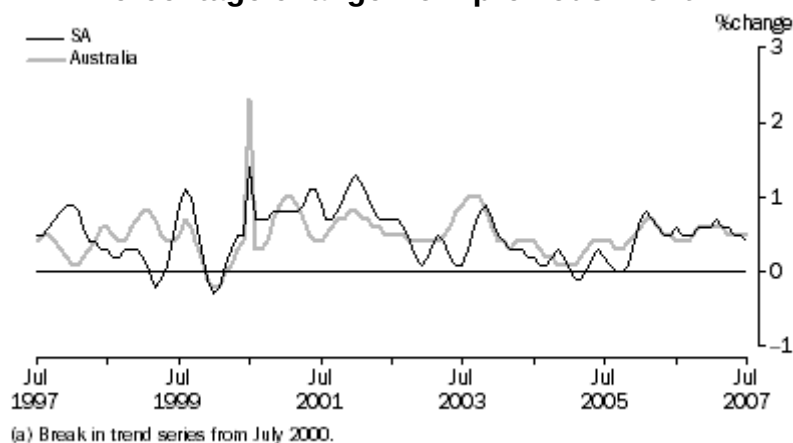


### CONSUMPTION

#### RETAIL TURNOVER

The July 2007 trend estimate for South Australia's retail turnover was \$1,385.5m, compared with the Australian total of \$19,292.1m. This represents a 0.4% increase in turnover across all retail industries for South Australia from the previous month and a 0.5% increase nationally.

#### RETAIL TURNOVER(a), Current prices, Trend, Percentage change from previous month



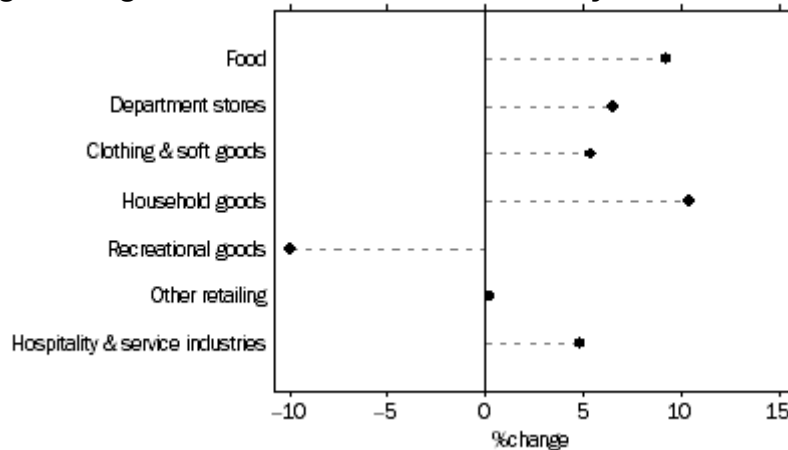
Source: [Retail Trade, Australia](#) (cat. no. 8501.0)

Comparing July 2007 with July 2006, retail turnover (trend) increased by 7.0% for South Australia and 6.7% for Australia.

Over the same period, the two South Australian industry groups with the largest percentage increases in retail turnover (trend) were Household goods, rising by 10.4% (to \$201.5m), and Food, rising by 9.2% (to \$619.4m). The South Australian industry group which reported

the largest decrease in retail turnover (trend) was Recreational goods retailing, down by 10.0% to \$36.2m.

### RETAIL TURNOVER BY INDUSTRY GROUP, Current prices, Trend, Percentage change over last twelve months, July 2007, South Australia

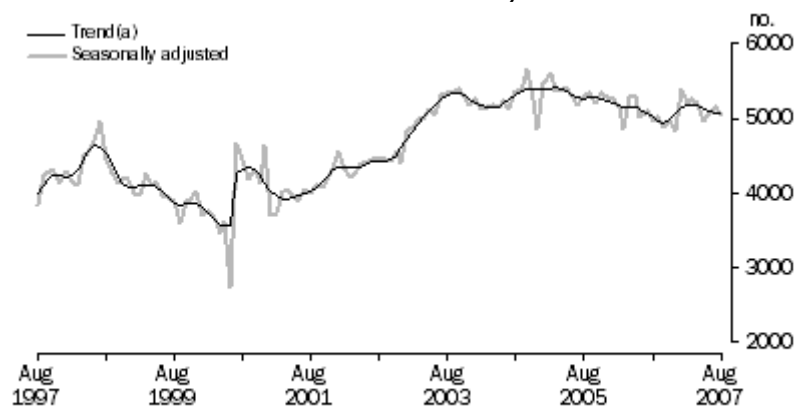


Source: [Retail Trade, Australia](#) (cat. no. 8501.0)

### NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

In August 2007, 3,139 new passenger vehicles and 5,058 new vehicles in total (in trend terms) were sold in South Australia. Corresponding sales for Australia were 52,900 and 86,834.

### NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES, South Australia



(a) Break in trend series between June 2000 & July 2000 with introduction of the New Tax System

Source: [Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Electronic Delivery, Feb. 2007](#) (cat. no. 9314.0.55.001)

## Investment



### INVESTMENT

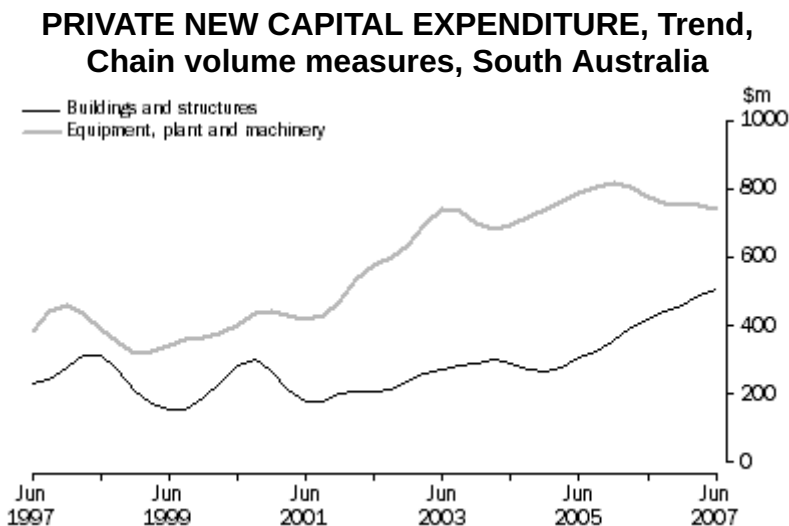
#### PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Between the March 2007 and the June 2007 quarters, the South Australian chain volume (trend) estimate of private new capital expenditure increased by 0.9% to \$1,248m.

Expenditure on equipment, plant and machinery decreased by \$11m (or 1.5%) to \$740m, while expenditure on buildings and structures increased by \$22m (or 4.5%) to \$508m. For the same period, private new capital expenditure for Australia increased by 5.3% to

\$20,685, with both expenditure on buildings and structures and equipment, plant and machinery increasing (by 5.9% and 4.5% respectively).

Comparing the June 2007 quarter with the June 2006 quarter, South Australia's total private new capital expenditure increased by 8.1%. Expenditure on equipment, plant and machinery decreased by 4.9%; expenditure on buildings and structures grew by 21.8%. Nationally, total private new capital expenditure increased by 11.8% for this twelve month period; expenditure on buildings and structures increased by 15.6%, and equipment, plant and machinery increased by 8.9%.



Source: [Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5625.0)

### **MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE**

Since the March quarter 2005, when continuous data on mineral exploration by mineral type in South Australia became available, South Australian expenditure (in original terms) on non-petroleum mineral exploration has increased six-fold, from \$14.0m to \$84.1m in the June 2007 quarter. Over the same period, Australian expenditure on non-petroleum mineral exploration has more than doubled from \$225.8m to \$502.5m.

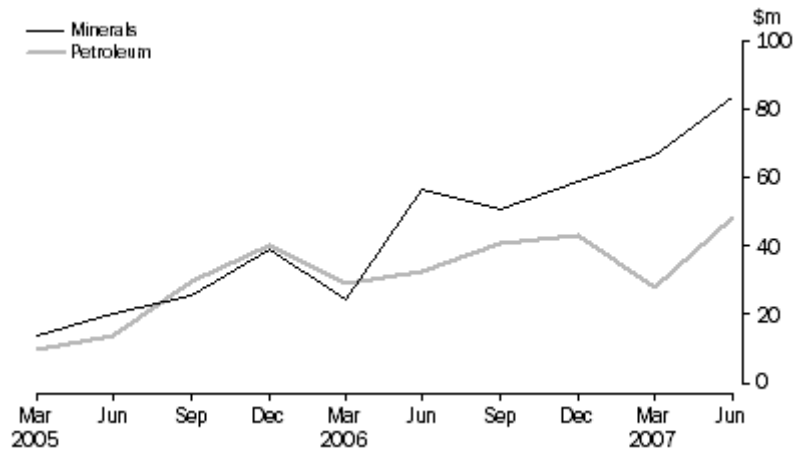
The South Australian increase is reflected in both exploration of new deposits (up from \$2.6m to \$24.3m), and exploration of existing deposits (\$11.4m to \$59.7m).

The main mineral types attracting the growth in South Australian mineral exploration were base metals (increasing from \$7.6m to \$45.4m), copper (from \$6.9m to \$40.8m) and Uranium (from \$2.5m to \$22.4m).

Petroleum exploration expenditure data for South Australia are only available on a continuous basis from the March 2005 quarter. The June 2007 quarter expenditure on petroleum exploration in South Australia (\$48.6m) was almost five times that of the March quarter 2005 (\$9.8m). Nationally, expenditure on petroleum exploration increased from \$269.2m in the March quarter 2005 to \$732.1m in the June 2007 quarter (an almost three-fold increase). Expenditure on petroleum exploration in the June 2007 quarter was the highest recorded for both South Australia and Australia.

### **MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, Original, South Australia**





Source: [Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia](#) (cat. no. 8412.0)

## Production



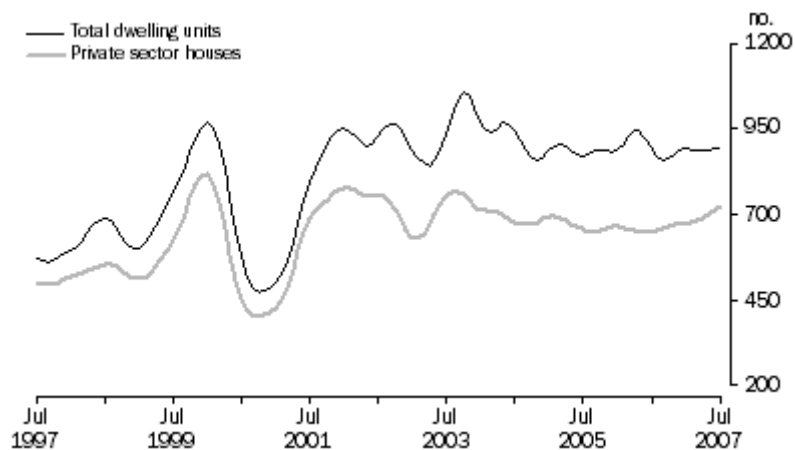
### PRODUCTION

#### BUILDING APPROVALS

In July 2007, the total number (in trend terms) of dwelling units approved in South Australia was 893. Nationally, the total number (in trend terms) of dwelling units approved was 12,775.

The trend estimate for South Australian private sector house approvals rose for each of the last thirteen months to July 2007 (722 approvals).

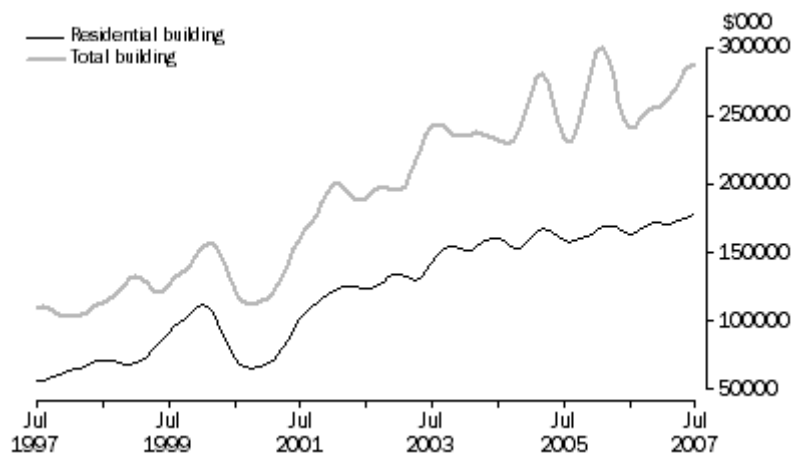
#### DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, Trend, South Australia



Source: [Building Approvals, Australia](#) (cat. no. 8731.0)

In July 2007, the total value (in trend terms) of building approvals was \$287.7m for South Australia and \$5,633.6m for Australia.

#### VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, Trend, South Australia



Source: Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0)

## Prices

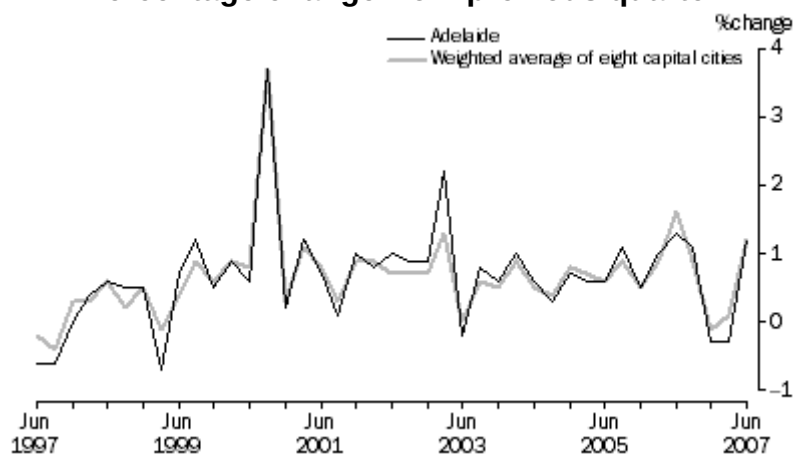


### PRICES

#### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The all groups consumer price index (CPI) for Adelaide increased by 1.7% in the 12 months to June 2007, compared with a 2.1% rise in the weighted average of eight capital cities. Both Adelaide's CPI and the weighted average of eight capital cities rose by 1.2% in June 2007.

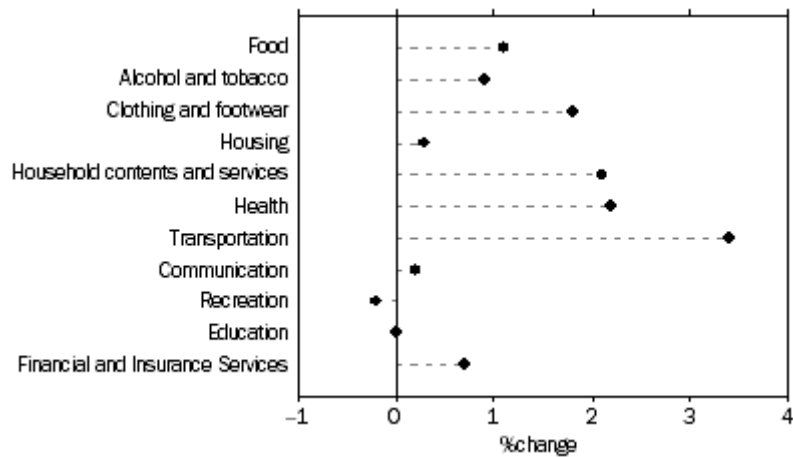
#### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL GROUPS, Original, Percentage change from previous quarter



Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)

The only category with a percentage decrease from the last quarter (contributing to the overall CPI movement for Adelaide) was Recreation (0.2%). The largest percentage increases occurred with Transportation (3.4%), Health (2.2%) and Household contents and services (2.1%).

#### CPI MOVEMENT, ADELAIDE, Original - JUNE 2007 QUARTER, Percentage change from previous quarter



Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)

## Labour Force

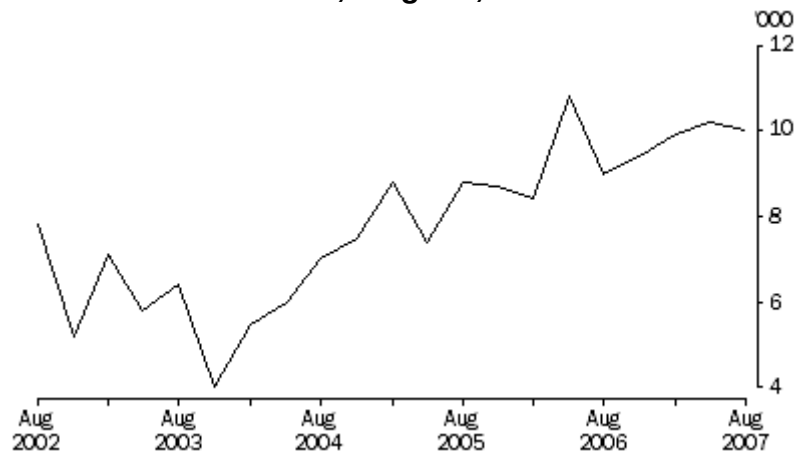


### LABOUR FORCE

#### JOB VACANCIES

In original terms, South Australia's total number of job vacancies decreased to about 10,000 in August 2007 from 10,200 in May 2007. The August 2007 vacancies were 11% higher than in August 2006. Australia-wide, job vacancies increased from 166,500 in May 2007 to 173,100 in August 2007. The Australian job vacancies in August 2007 were 12% higher than in August 2006.

#### JOB VACANCIES, Original, South Australia



Source: Job Vacancies, Australia (cat. no. 6354.0)

#### EMPLOYED PERSONS

In trend terms, total employment in South Australia rose by 1.0% from a recent low of 753,400 persons in March 2007 to its highest ever level of 761,000 persons in August 2007. Total employment in Australia also recorded a series high, about 10,502,000 persons in August 2007.

#### TOTAL EMPLOYED PERSONS(a), Trend, South Australia

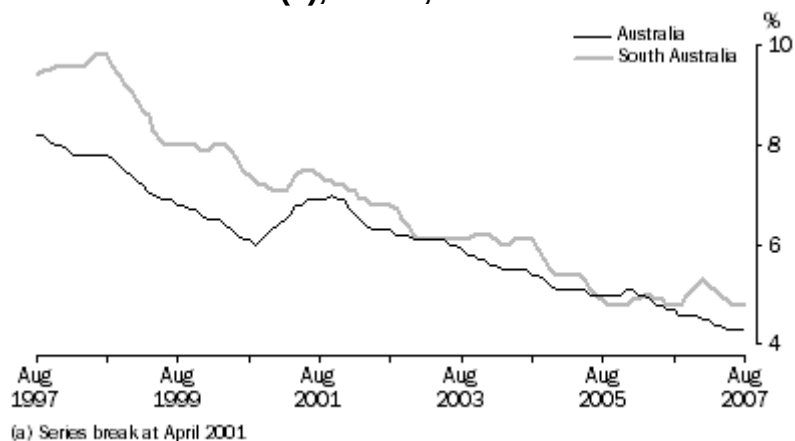


Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend estimate unemployment rate for South Australia has remained steady at 4.8% for each of the three months to August 2007 after reaching a recent peak of 5.3% in January 2007. Australia's unemployment rate remained steady at 4.3% in August 2007, although this was lower than the 4.5% recorded in January 2007.

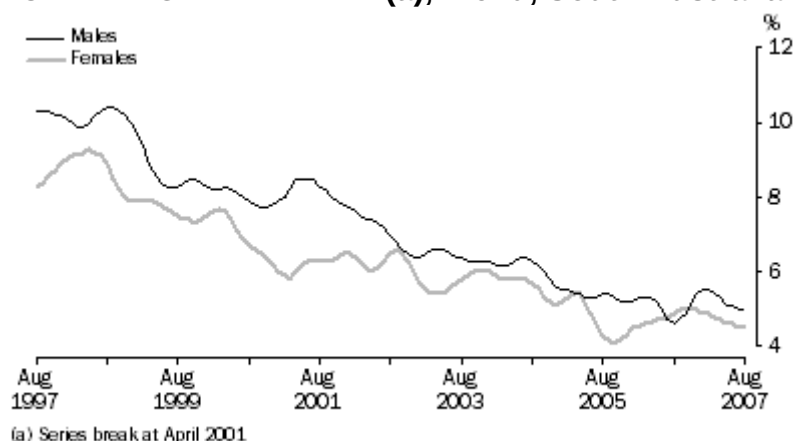
### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE(a), Trend, South Australia and Australia



Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

For South Australia, the trend unemployment rate for females decreased to 4.5% in August 2007 down from 4.9% in January 2007. For males the unemployment rate decreased to 5.0% in August 2007, down from 5.5% in January 2007.

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE(a), Trend, South Australia

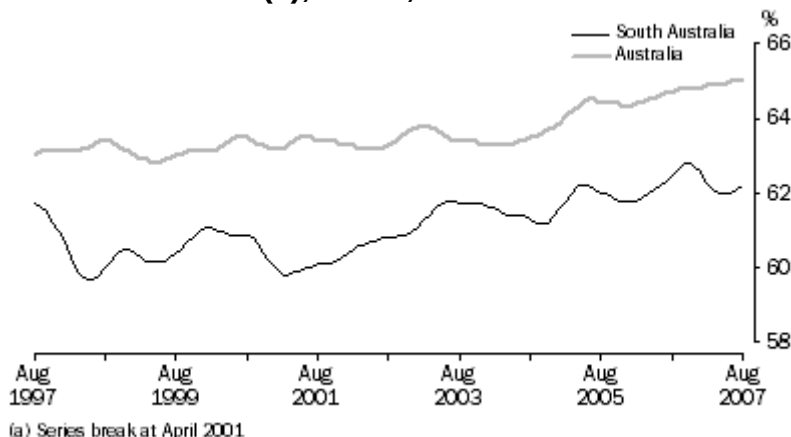


Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

## PARTICIPATION RATE

The trend estimate of the participation rate for South Australia in August 2007 was 62.2%, down from 62.5% a year ago. In the ten year period from August 1997, the lowest estimate was 59.7% in May and June of 1998. Australia's trend participation rate increased slightly to 65.0% in June 2007 and remained steady through to August 2007. The lowest participation rate reported for Australia for the ten year period from August 1997 was 62.8% in April and May of 1999.

### PARTICIPATION RATE(a), Trend, South Australia and Australia

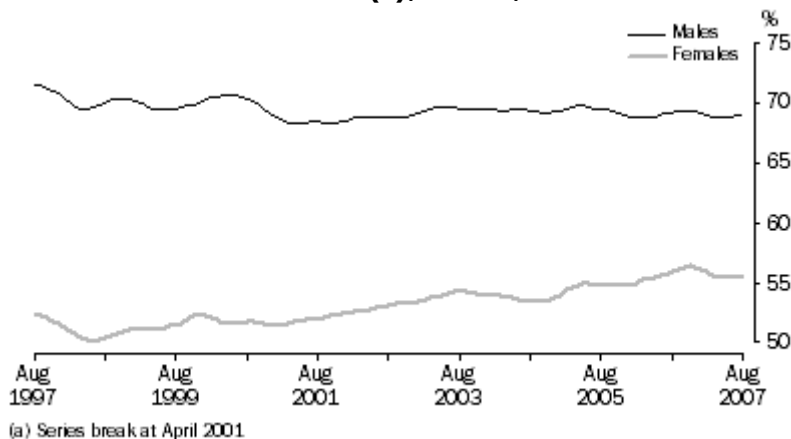


Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

For South Australia, the trend participation rate for females was 55.6% in August 2007, lower than the rate recorded a year ago (55.9%). Over the past 12 months, the highest rate was recorded in November 2006 (56.5%), falling slightly to 56.2% in January 2007 and has remained above 55.0% since February 2006. Nationally the female participation rate increased slightly to 57.8% in July and August 2007. This is higher than the rate in August 2007 (57.5%).

The participation rate for South Australian males had fallen from 69.5% in August 2006 to 69.0% in August 2007. The Australian participation rate for males has been consistently higher than that for South Australia since May 1997, and was 72.4% in August 2007.

### PARTICIPATION RATE(a), Trend, South Australia



Source: [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0)

# Incomes

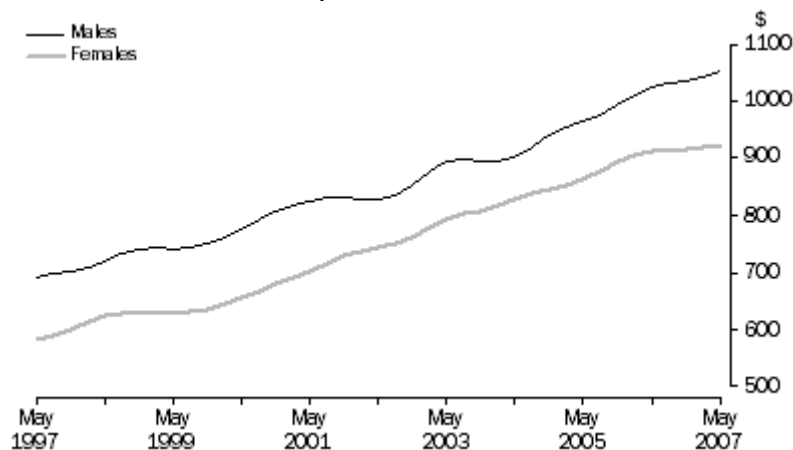


## INCOMES

### AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

The trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time) earnings for full-time adult persons in South Australia increased by 2.5% to \$1,011.10 in the 12 months to May 2007. Nationally, the corresponding increase was greater at 4.4% (up to \$1,088.40).

### AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, FULL-TIME ADULT ORDINARY, Trend, South Australia



Source: [Average Weekly Earnings, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6302.0)

For South Australia, the trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time, full-time adult) earnings rose by 2.8% for males and 1.1% for females over the 12 months to May 2007.

At May 2007, female average weekly earnings (\$921.30) in South Australia comprised 87.5% of the corresponding male level (\$1,052.70), compared with a ratio of 89.0% observed a year earlier (May 2006). Nationally, in May 2007 female average weekly earnings (\$968.20) were 83.8% of the male earnings (\$1,156.00).

# International Merchandise Trade



## INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

### EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

South Australia's value of exports (in original terms) in July 2007 (\$916m) was 39.4% greater than in July 2006 (\$657m). The highest reported increases in value of exports over this period were for Wheat (up \$38m, or 132%), Wine (up \$67m, or 56%) and Road vehicles, parts and accessories (up \$21m or 37.0%). Declines in value were reported for the exports of Wool and sheepskins (down by 25%), Metals and metal manufacturers (down 12%), Fish and crustaceans (down by 11%) and Machinery (down by 8%).

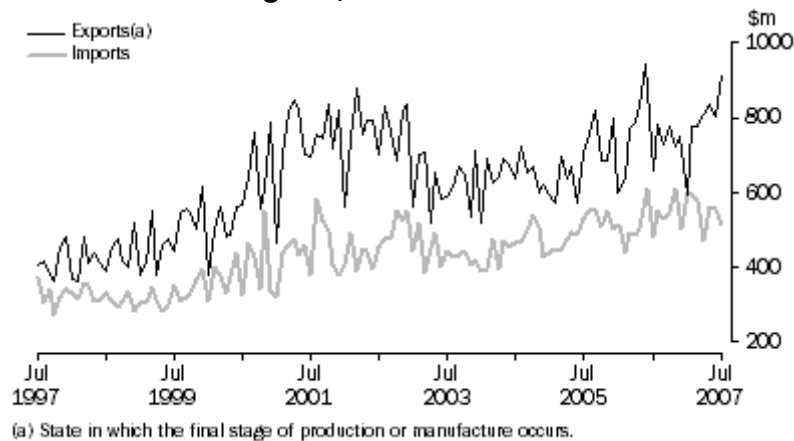
The value of Australian exports for July 2007 (\$14,523m) was 1.5% greater than for July

2006. The main industries that contributed to the increase in the value of Australian exports were Petroleum, Coal, Chemical and Associated Product Manufacturing (up by 19.9%, \$179m); Machinery and equipment manufacturing (up 17.4%, \$219m), of which exports of passenger vehicles rose to \$256m from \$132m; Metal Product manufacturing (up 10.0%, \$276m); Metal Ore Mining (up by 10.0%, \$231m). Counteracting the increased exports for these industries were decreases in exports for Coal mining, down by 20.4% (\$411m) and Oil and gas extraction, (22.4%, \$318m).

The value of South Australian merchandise imports decreased to \$511m in July 2007 from \$557m in June 2007 and \$563m in May 2007. In July 2006 the state's merchandise imports amounted to \$481m.

Other than for January 2007, the value of exports from South Australia exceeded the value of imports for all periods from July 1996 to July 2007. Nationally, for the same period, in most months, the value of imports exceeded the value of exports. The greatest relative differences, when the value of South Australian exports was more than double the value of imports, occurred in December 2000, December 2001, March 2002 and June 2002 .

### VALUE OF MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, Original, South Australia



Source: [International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5368.0)

## Housing Finance

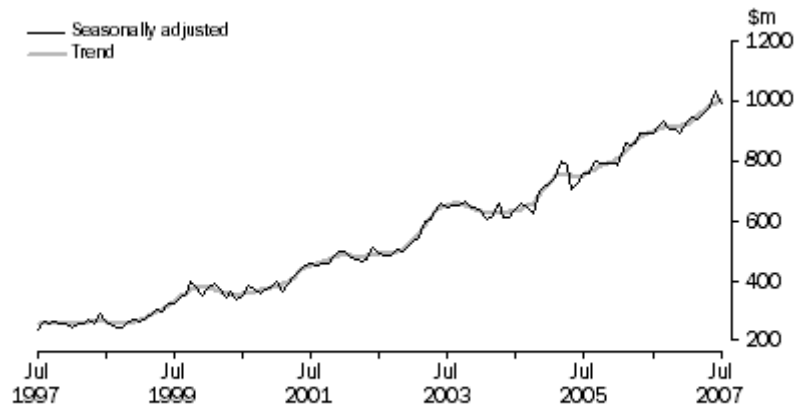


### HOUSING FINANCE

#### HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS

The trend estimate of the total value of housing finance commitments (owner occupation) in South Australia has risen by 11.2% to \$1,006m in the 12 months to July 2007. Nationally, for the same period, the increase was about the same at 11.5% (to a total of \$15,673m).

#### HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (OWNER OCCUPATION), South Australia

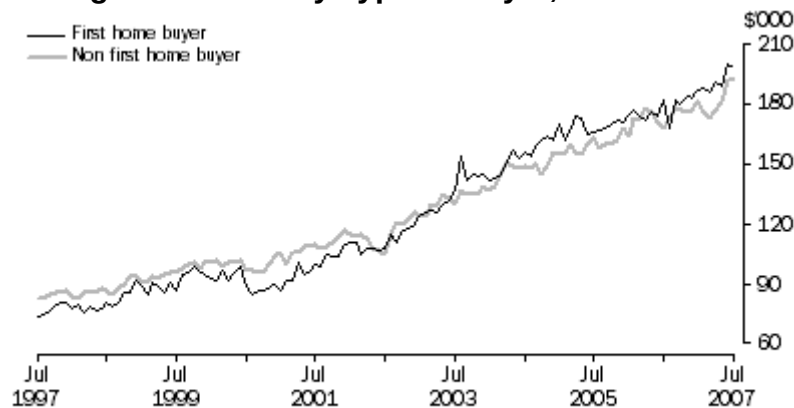


Note: Excludes alterations & additions. Includes refinancing.

Source: [Housing Finance, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5609.0)

Since July 1997, the average home loan commitment for owner occupied dwellings in South Australia has more than doubled from \$81,100 to \$193,400 in July 2007. The gap between the average loan size for first home buyers and non-first home buyers gradually widened over the nine months from September 2006 to June 2007, but decreased in July 2007. In June 2007 the average loan size for first home buyers was \$200,300, which was 4.2% greater than the average loan size of \$192,200 for non-first home buyers; in September 2006, the average loan size for first home buyers was \$182,400, or 2.3% greater than for non-first home buyers. The average first home buyer loan size in July 2007 was \$197,800, with non-first home buyer loans at \$192,700.

### HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (OWNER OCCUPATION), Original, Average Loan Size by Type of Buyer, South Australia



Note: Excludes alterations & additions. Includes refinancing.

Source: [Housing Finance, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5609.0)

## Environment



### ENVIRONMENT

#### WINTER RAINFALL

The [Bureau of Meteorology's 2007 winter climate summary for South Australia](#) reported that the season's rainfall was well below average across the state.

- The Adelaide Metropolitan area's highest aggregate winter rainfall for 2007 was



recorded at Kent Town, where 158.4 mm or 71% of the winter average of 223.6mm were reported; Edinburgh RAAF base recorded 93.2 mm (59%) out of a winter average of 156.7mm. Adelaide's (Kent Town) total winter rainfall for 2006 was 58.6mm, or 26% of the winter average, making it Adelaide's driest winter on record.

- The higher parts of the Mount Lofty ranges recorded winter rainfall within normal limits; Mount Barker received 256.6mm (or 84%) out of an annual average of 307.3mm.
- Agricultural districts generally received well below average winter rainfalls, with lowest ever recordings occurring in Parachilna where 4.0 mm , or 7% of the winter average of 55.4 mm; Ceduna, 22.8mm (21% of 110.3mm); Penong, 33.0mm (26% of 128.3mm); and Angaston, 71.4mm (34% of 212.6mm). For the 2006 winter, rainfall in the far west agricultural districts was about average, while the southeast experienced very much below average rainfall.
- The pastoral districts received well below average winter rain. Andamooka, with 2.8 mm of rain (and a winter average of 41.9 mm) and Danggali Conservation Park, with 12.4mm (winter average of 65.7mm) both had their lowest winter rainfalls on record. In 2006, winter rainfall ranged from near average in the northern and eastern parts of the pastoral districts, to very much below average over the central and southern parts.

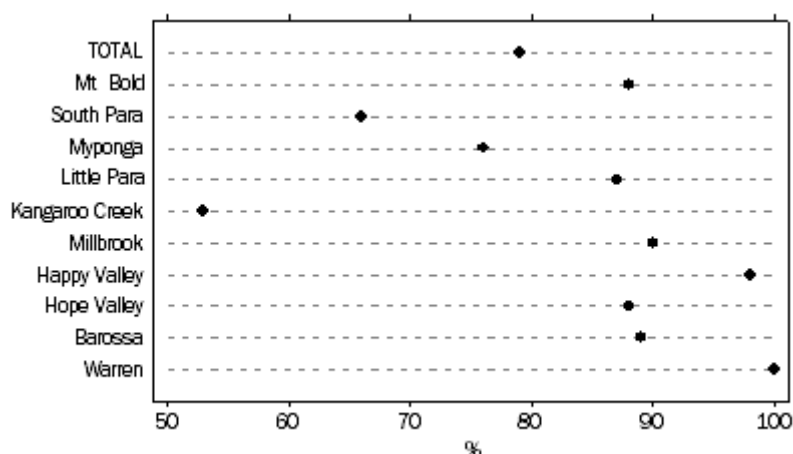
The Southeastern Australia Seasonal Rainfall Outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology (23 August) predicted that total spring (September to November) rainfall for the southeast of South Australia has a 60% to 65% chance of being less than average, while the probability for the rest of the state being drier than average is about 50% to 55%.

On September 11, Premier Rann announced that a very slight improvement in predicted rainfalls in the Adelaide Hills would allow easing of Adelaide's water restrictions.

## RESERVOIR LEVELS

The total water storage in Adelaide's reservoirs at 3 September 2007 (the end of winter and beginning of spring) was 79% of capacity, compared with 55% at the same time in 2006.

### ADELAIDE'S RESERVOIR LEVELS, as a percentage of capacity, 3 September 2007



Source: SA Water, daily reservoir levels

# Tourism



## TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

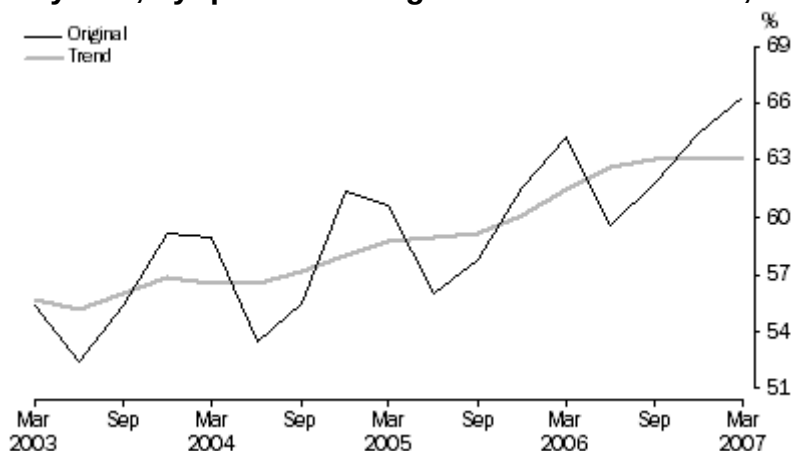
The total takings from all forms of tourist accommodation in South Australia in the March 2007 quarter were \$117.0 million, which was 4.9% of the Australian total of \$2,370.3 million. For the year ended March 2007, total tourist accommodation takings in South Australia were \$414.2 million, or 4.6% of the Australian total. The South Australian takings had increased by 8.6% over those for the year ended March 2006.

Tourist guest arrivals at South Australian hotels, motels and serviced apartments with five or more rooms and at visitor hostels for the year ended March 2007 amounted to 2,487,000 persons, or 5.4% of the Australian total, and 6.1% more than for the year ended March 2006.

Hotels, motels and serviced apartments with fifteen or more rooms account for more than three-quarters of the takings for all types of tourist accommodation in both South Australia and Australia. For the year ended March 2007, takings from this type of accommodation in South Australia were \$313.6 million, or 75.7% of the total tourist accommodation takings for the state. This type of accommodation caters for well over three-quarters of the guest arrivals, with 2,169,200 (or 87.2% of all guests) guest arrivals in South Australia in the year ended March 2007.

Room occupancy rates for hotels, motels and serviced apartments with fifteen or more rooms for the year ended March 2007 were 63.0% and 65.0% for South Australia and Australia respectively; these rates exceeded those for the year ended March 2006, at 59.8% and 63.2% respectively. The data in original terms from the graph below indicates that occupancy rates tend to be highest in the warmer months of the December, and in particular, March quarters.

### HOTELS, MOTELS AND SERVICED APARTMENTS WITH 15 OR MORE ROOMS, Room occupancy rate, by quarter — Original and Trend series, South Australia



Sources: Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, South Australia - Electronic Delivery, Mar 2007 (cat. no. 8635.4.55.001)  
Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, South Australia - Electronic Delivery, Mar 2006 (cat. no. 8635.4.55.001)

## About this Release

SA Stats provides an overview of the South Australian economy. The overview will be updated on a quarterly basis (in March, June, September and December) and in the intervening months the publication will include feature articles that provide a South Australian focus on economic, social and environmental issues.

Explanatory Notes are not included in SA Stats in the form found in other ABS publications. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications (links to source documents are provided in the summary table).

Replaces: 1307.4

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